# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:520
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
VISIT OF HURRIYAT LEADERS TO PAKISTAN
Maheshwari Smt. Kiran;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Patil Shri Anna Saheb M.K.;Rijiju Shri Kiren;Satpathy Shri Tathagata;Swain Shri M.A. Kharabela;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Pakistan has violated the provisions of the agreement pertaining to Muzaffarabad-Kashmir bus service with India in the context of the visits of the Hurriyat leaders to PoK;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue has been brought to the notice of Pakistan;

(d) if so, its response thereto;

(e) whether these leaders travelled to Islamabad on the said bus-service without carrying their Indian passports;

(f) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
(g) the details of places visited by Hurriyat leaders in Pakistan; and
(h) the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) to (h) Some leaders of the Hurriyat visited PoK and Pakistan from 2-16 June 2005. Their visit to PoK using the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus was cleared on the basis of procedures agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The bilateral understanding on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service is that travel is limited to the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir and is on the basis of permits issued by the two sides. Government has made its stand clear that Pakistan`s decision to invite the Hurriyat leaders to visit Islamabad and other cities in Pakistan violated an understanding between the two countries, and that the onus for any Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus passenger travelling beyond PoK lay on the Pakistani authorities. Pakistan has denied violation of any understanding.

The Hurriyat leaders visited PoK and Pakistan in their individual capacities. Passports were issued to those Hurriyat leaders who did not possess Indian passports and made a request for the issue of such documents.